

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on 3/26/04, assigned serial 10/809399 and title "Control system and method for controlling a moving body".

2. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

After carefully reviewing the application and the additional search of all the possible areas relevant to the present application, a set of related prior art references has been found, but those prior art references are not deemed strong to make the application unpatentable. Thus, it is found that the application is now in condition for allowance.

As per claim 10, the prior art of record does not disclose a control system for controlling a heading of a ship to be controlled, control system comprising: a heading of the ship acquisition section for sequentially acquiring instantaneous values of the heading of the ship; a timing judgment section for sequentially determining a time duration of each of specific kinds of behaviors of the ship based on the values of the heading of the ship acquired by the heading of the ship acquisition section; a behavior pattern judgment section for sequentially determining a behavior pattern which each of the behaviors of the controlled ship matches from among multiple behavior patterns based on the values of the heading of the ship acquired by the heading of the ship acquisition section during the time duration of each of the behaviors sequentially determined by the timing judgment section. This limitation in combination with the other elements in the claim was not shown or suggested by the prior art.

Claims 10-13, are allowable over the prior art of record.

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalena Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-6968. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W (in a first week of a bi-week), and T-R (in a second week of bi-week) from 7:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Khoi H. Tran can be reached on 571-272-6919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dalena Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3664
April 2, 2008